



The Servants' Light

August 31, 2016

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***“Servants of
Jesus Christ—
Ministering
To One Another,
To Our Community,
And To Our World.”***

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Sunday Morning

Schedule

Worship—

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Children's Worship—

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship—

10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Nursery/Preschool Care—

8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

We've been planning it for many weeks...

We have had many praying about it...

We've talked about it - **“INVITE YOUR ONE”**,
from many angles...

Now it's time to reap the seeds YOU have sown...

We have a special day planned...

September 11, 2016
Back to Church Sunday
2 Service Types...1 Jesus

Remember:

Pray for your guest(s).

Contact your guest(s).

Encourage them.

The importance of **“Invite Your One”** is simple:
While there are many opportunities at First
Presbyterian Church of Joliet, we are focused on
wanting as many people to know the love...
forgiveness...and fullness of life
possible in Jesus Christ.

The Pastor's Corner—



Sunday, September 4. “O taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed are those who take refuge in him!” (Psalm 34:8) Come and experience the goodness of God this Sunday in worship with your church family, friends, and visitors. It is always the right time to take refuge in God and trust in the Lord.

Come and join us in worship this Sunday.

Ken Myers is singing at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The Worship Band is singing and playing at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Sermon. Dale Ambler is preaching this Sunday. Dale writes, “We know the phrase, ‘The Great Commission.’ We hear the words of this very familiar passage nearly every time a baptism takes place. For many though, the idea of putting it into practice can be a bit scary. Last week we talked about ‘A Grander Vision’ for the church which we will continue this week in ‘A Grander Vision - Part 2’ using the text of Matthew 28:16-20.”

We Have a Youth Director Candidate Coming This Sunday to Meet Our Youth. Amber Moore is going to worship with us at the 9:00 a.m. service. She will be meeting the Youth, Advisors, and Parents and teaching in Room 210 at 10:00 a.m. Then, following the 10:30 a.m. service, she will join us all for lunch in Room 210. Please invite your youth group friends and other friends to come.

Help Make September 11th a Great Sunday. We are anticipating a Sunday filled with the Hope of Christ on is September 11th. We are celebrating communion on

Thank You— “My family and I wish to thank you for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to us during our recent loss.” — JoAnn McBride

August 28, 2016

Worship Attendance — 189

Stewardship Report

2016-2017 Budget: \$792,916

Year to Date Receipts	\$282,049
Year to Date Expenses	\$282,488

2016-2017 Bequest/Gift Income Received— \$2,000
Farragut School Supply Project \$2,154

Craig Herr, Senior Pastor

September 11 rather than September 4. Think about inviting one person, which God leads you to invite to our community of grace and faith, our church. I’m sure God will guide you in this if you take a few minutes to pray about who you might invite. Imagine all of those “Ones” showing up on Sunday, September 11. What a great Sunday it will be. There’s still time to invite your One!

Youth Group Starts Up Sunday, September 11. The details are on the Youth Page for the beginning of Youth Group on Sunday evening, September 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Plan on coming and bringing your friends. It’s going to be a great year!

On Tuesday, September 13, We Are Hosting Presbytery. If you could help us in some way, please call the church office. Here are some ways you could help: donating any of the following food items: cookies/bars, coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad. We are going to serve a picnic lunch. We will give the proceeds from the meal to our Farragut School Supplies Project. If you can help with registration, greeting, ushering or being a parking lot attendant to welcome folks, just let us know by calling the office. In Christ,

Craig



Known to be in the Hospital:

Todd Garrison & Chuck Bailey at
Presence St. Joseph Medical Center

Just Born:

Nora Penelope Thompson (July 21)
Daughter of Sam & Megan (Pocius) Thompson

Passing to Life Eternal:

Violet Osterholtz (Aug. 15)
Rosannah Sather (Aug. 29)

Baptized:

Kainen Kroening (Aug. 14)
Son of Kyle & Kristin (Pocius) Kroening

Please pray for J.B. and Jean Howard and family on the passing of J.B.’s aunt, Vivian Steverson, Aug. 25 in Kentucky.

A Memorial Service for Rosannah Sather will be held Sat., Sept. 3, 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Angels, 1201 Wyoming Ave., Joliet, with visitation Fri., 6 to 8 p.m. and Sat., 9 to 11 a.m. at OLA.

Adult Education Opportunities

"I Vote For God: Fear Ends Where Faith Begins" Sermon Series
Beginning Sunday, September 11th

"A Matter of Trust"
Psalm 146, Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 6:25-34

"God Doesn't Yell at the World"
John 3:16-21, I Timothy 2:1-6, Psalm 136

"When Storms Strike: S.F.T."
Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 27

"The Mercy of God: Mercy in Our Midst"
Mark 10:46-52, Genesis 17:1-11, 17-28,
Micah 6:6-8

"God is Faithful and Just: Faith, Fanaticism and Injustice"
James 1:12-18, Matthew 9:1-13

"Freedom"
Romans 8:18-21, II Corinthians 3:17-18,
Galatians 5:1

"Help My Unbelief"
Mark 9:14-24

"God Votes For You"
Romans 8: 28-39

"The Shelf Life of Joy"
Nehemiah 8:10, John 15:1-17

"Bible Perspectives"
Sundays, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
Room 201 with Jim Mullins

We use the Common Lectionary Bible passages each week. The format basically follows a three question format: What do these words mean? What did these words mean to the original hearers? What do these words mean to us today? **No class this Sunday; we meet next on Sunday, September 11.**

2 New Discussion Group Opportunities "Is That In the Bible?"

Using the Bible and Adam Hamilton's book, "Half-Truths," this new discussion group opportunity will have us look at some of the things many Christians believe deeply and repeat often. Things like... "God helps those who help themselves" or "God won't give you more than you can handle" or "Everything happens for a reason"... things many believe are captured in the Bible. While there is some truth in these "Half Truths," we'll explore our beliefs and the truths that come from reading the Bible.

There will be two opportunities—both the same, but two different times to better fit your life:

Tuesdays at noon...beginning September 20th, bring your lunch and join me in the Fireside Room

Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room on the nights when ZooM is in session (first discussion group is September 21).

— Dale Ambler



Our devotional blog will continue with "Author's Choice." If you are interested in joining our group of authors, just drop an email to dale.ambler@firstpresjoliet.org. It's really not that hard—the most important thing is committing to at least one day per week and writing devotional thoughts that are foundationally biblical. After all, the primary focus of this devotional blog is knowing our Bible better. To read the blog each day, just go to our website and click on "Blog" at the top!



Sandi and Dave Zang are facilitating another Financial Peace University class beginning Monday, September 12, at 7 p.m. for 9 weeks. Whether you are struggling with debt or making ends meet...this class will show you how to deal with the stranglehold debt has on our lives, and how to manage, save and spend your money wisely. We all need a plan for our money, and Dave Ramsey's popular Financial Peace University will help you understand God's ways of handling your money. Whether you are one individual or a family (FPU is for your teenagers, as well), all you need is one membership per family (\$93). Call the church office if you are interested in attending the class. Sign up online at www.daveramsey.com/fpu/.



Parents, help your children learn to make wise choices about working, spending, saving, giving, and more. Cassie Lennertz is facilitating two Dave Ramsey class opportunities:

Tuesdays, beginning September 20, at 7 p.m. for 6 weeks
Fridays, beginning September 23, at 9 a.m. for 6 weeks

Childcare is available. We have curriculum packets at the discounted cost of \$50. Call the office at 815-727-9259 or Cassie at 815-931-2875 (cjlennertz@me.com).

Meal Fellowship

Men's Breakfast—September 2, 7:30 a.m. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson St., Joliet.

Dinner Out Group—September 20, 6 p.m. at Ashford House, 7959 W. 159th St., Tinley Park. Please call Sis Schmidt at 815-725-0544 or Mary Haas at 815-524-4624 by September 19 if you are planning to join us, so a reservation can be made.

Men's Dinner Group—September 23, 6 p.m., at Katie O'Connors Pinhouse, 13717 S. Route 30, Suite 101, Plainfield. Please RSVP to Bob Smietanski at 815-838-7616.

Small Groups & Special Events



At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 18, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, voted:

- to approve any baptisms that may be requested in September;
- to approve the Landscape Committee's proposal that a 9-inch high wall be erected around the Western Avenue entrance to the parking lot adjacent to the church to protect the plantings in that area, and to approve the estimated cost of about \$3,000, with any additions made to that amount at the discretion of the Landscape Committee;
- to move Communion Sunday for September to September 11, the 15th Anniversary of 9/11/01, rather than the traditional first Sunday of the month;
- to serve Communion by Intinction at the worship service during the Presbytery meeting on September 13;
- to accept Dale Hammond's resignation as Lay Pastor of Visitation effective Sunday, October 23, 2016, with Dale's service recognized on that Sunday during coffee hour;
- to approve the requested transfer of Micah and Shelby Manore to Remembrance Church, Grand Rapids, MI.

"House or Home: Marriage Edition"

This study by Chip Ingram will help us look at what God has planned for our marriages. The class begins Wednesday, September 14, 9 to 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Child care will be provided. The only cost to you is \$5 for a study guide. Contact Mandy Nolan at 317-345-5549 or mrsnolan@gmail.com for details or if interested.

Who Is Jesus?

PW (Presbyterian Women) welcomes the Horizons' Bible Study this Fall with much anticipation. Over nine lessons we will try to answer this question personally—"Who do I think He is?" We look for the answer in some likely and unlikely places: the Gospel writers, the apostle Paul, the book of Hebrews, early Christian writings and various cultural perspectives.

All women are invited to our meetings the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Fireside Room at 9:15 a.m. or 12:00 noon. We build Christian fellowship through Bible Study, Friendship and Mission Outreach. Come join us on this exciting Journey of Faith!

Servants of Jesus Christ —

Ministering to One Another, to Our Community, and to Our World

Night Deacons Free Pancake Breakfast

The Night Deacons are serving breakfast on Saturday, September 3, 8 to 10 a.m. to those in our community who are spiritually or physically hungry. Come on out and help us serve and welcome our guests.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Night Deacons collect monetary donations to fund our various ministries—food for the needy, etc. Please use the special envelopes marked “Night Deacon Ministries” in the pew racks for your donation. Thank you for your ongoing support!



Please continue to send in LFE upc's as we can send them in through the end of 2017. We are currently at 12,858 points and would like to make the most of our earnings before the program ends. The LFE boxes are in the Narthex and in Hoffman Hall—just drop in your labels.

Music Ministry

The Fall service schedule begins again in September, including the church music programs. I could give you my standard pitch for joining Chancel Choir as in past years. But, I will instead give you my personal thoughts. I have been directing church choirs in one capacity or another since 1963, which makes 2016-17 my 53rd year in church music—53 years of doing what I love! What I love best are the people who give up their time to sing and add their voices to the message Christ has charged us to deliver. Without people to conduct, this experience would not be enjoyable or possible. I have been blessed with a loyal following in the various places I have served. You know the term "Church Family." This is even truer of "Choir Family," and I am having a wonderful experience with that family here at Joliet 1st Pres.

We have great music from our extensive choral library, new pieces, and even an original Christmas Cantata by our own Jay Darley on the schedule for the Chancel Choir Fall season. We sent a couple of our members off to college this summer, and there are always the travelers from our group who rightly come and go during the church year. So I am putting out the call for new blood, needed if we are to continue giving 1st Pres. the music offerings we deliver each and every week. Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (at the very latest) starting this year on September 7th. We sing regularly at the 9:00 a.m. service, from September 11 on through each week during the church year. You will not find a better group of people to join, especially if you need to feel supported as you get comfortable in a new vocal group. Don't wait! Get started this Fall! Help us maintain the music excellence we are known for at 1st Pres., and continue to make this a joyful experience for all who participate and for me as we work and worship together.

— Ken Myers, Choirmaster

Volunteer Drivers needed for Meals on Wheels Program

“Meals on Wheels,” a Senior Services program, provides nutritious meals to persons age 60 and over who are homebound. First Pres. currently has four volunteers making deliveries to West Joliet, Route 4, on Fridays, taking only a little over an hour to complete (10:45 a.m. – noon.) We would love for at least two other folks to be a part of this rewarding ministry. For some meal recipients, this is the only personal contact of the day. Almost all of the weekday deliveries are done by volunteer drivers. Please call Tari Ambler, 815-351-2544 for more information, or to volunteer to drive on a Friday.

Calling All Musicians!

The Glory Ringers need your help. As we start our fall season, our Handbell Choir is drastically short of personnel. If you have ever considered trying handbells, NOW IS THE TIME! If you are interested, please attend our workshop at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 24. Come and learn how to ring in a fun, “no pressure” environment. For more information, contact Paula Stimpert at 815-342-7309 or pkmom@comcast.net. Please consider being a part of this fun and rewarding music ministry.



Children's Ministry Fall Update

This is
what we are
about!



This summer has been a great summer for our ministry here at 1st Pres. Yes, we had a great VBS, Sports Camps and great Youth Mission Trips! But there is more than the pictures we see or the stories we hear. It is about young peoples' lives being transformed, about young people growing in their faith and stepping out to serve their neighbor, and going the distance when it comes to volunteering and serving in the church. It has to do with faith being cradled in their hearts, in a way that not only makes parents proud, but challenges who we are in our own daily walk with God.



When I think about Children's Ministry here at First Pres., I always pray for THREE things. I pray that the kids will KNOW JESUS, and that they will know that this church is A PLACE TO BELONG, and also A PLACE TO SERVE! I was blessed this summer to see some of the kids that were in kindergarten and first grade when I got here, serve alongside me this summer. I got to see these kids, and I have to admit there was a sense of pride and accomplishment along with thanksgiving for who they turned out to be—in part because I know that it is God's work through their families, their church family and the always-giving teachers that you see Sunday after Sunday going to the classrooms, for just one child or for sixteen. Ministry is about the long

haul, about prayers that we say for the future; it is about relationships that we build, it is about faith developing in character.

So I would like to encourage you to pray with me this fall, for the kids and youth of our congregation. May they find Jesus in every class time or activity we have here, may they know the love of God and this community, and may they develop a heart for service. Also pray with me for their parents, teachers and for everyone that devotes time to them, for every volunteer and Sunday school teacher. Pray that God will continue to work in a powerful way as we start school again this fall.

Blessings,

Bo Mircea





Sunday, September 4

School has begun and you are all probably getting into a routine. Now it's time to add Youth Group back into the mix!

On Sunday, September 4th, a Youth Director candidate will visit First Pres. Meet in Room 210 at 10 a.m. sharp for the Sunday School lesson. Following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, we'll have a luncheon and spend some more time together.

Sunday, September 11

Our regular Sunday night Youth Group will resume on September 11, 6-8 p.m. Come and see your friends and our great advisors and reconnect with everyone after the long summer. It's also a great time to invite a friend to come and see what Youth Group is all about.

Getting back into the swing of school and all the activities that go along with it can be stressful. Don't overlook the importance of keeping God in your daily routine. Talk to him about your concerns and fears, pray about what is on your mind, and discover the peace that God will bring to you. Come to Youth Group Sunday, September 11, at 6 p.m. eager to support one another.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School -
September 4th—Special
Sunday School taught by a
Youth Director candidate

Lunch at 11:45 a.m.

Sunday Nights -
Youth Group meets
September 11th, 18th & 25th,
6-8 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Craig M. Herr—Senior Pastor
Dale Ambler—Associate Pastor
Bo Mircea—Associate Pastor of Children's Ministry
and Family Ministry
Dale Hammond—Pastor of Visitation
Diane Uden—Administrative Ministry Assistant
Sherry Buffington—Outreach Ministry Assistant &
Newsletter Editor

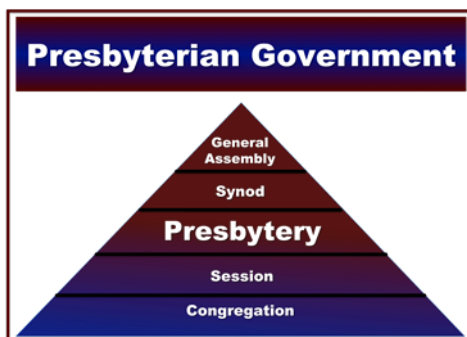
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Newsletter Deadline—The deadline for reserving space in the September 28 *Servants' Light* is **September 10**. Please e-mail to sherry.buffington@firstpresjoliet.org.

TO:



What is the Presbytery?

You've heard that First Pres. is hosting the September 13th meeting of Blackhawk Presbytery...just what does that mean? The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church in a particular district or area; for example, Blackhawk Presbytery is comprised of 75 churches in the northern third of Illinois, excluding the Chicagoland area. The presbytery is also responsible for supporting the witness of these 75 congregations to the sovereign

activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. Teaching Elders and elected commissioners comprise the ruling body of Blackhawk Presbytery which meets on average five times per year to oversee the business and mission of the presbytery.

If you are interested in knowing more about Blackhawk Presbytery, you can find information and the docket for the upcoming meeting at: <http://www.blackhawkpresbytery.org>